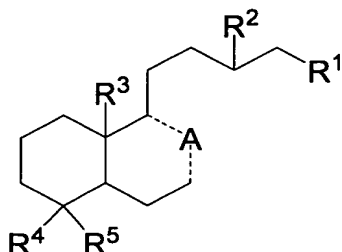


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising:

(A) one, or two or more compounds represented by formula (1) below:



(in formula (1), R¹ represents -CH₂OH or COOR⁶, R⁶ represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl group having the number of carbon atoms of 1 to 3, or a cation capable of forming a salt with COO⁻, each of R² to R⁵ independently represents a hydrogen atom or methyl group, and $\cdots A \cdots$ represents =C(CH₃)-, -C(CH₃)=, -C(=CH₂)-, -CH(CH₃)- or -C(OH)(CH₃)-); and

(B) one, or two or more medicinal ingredients selected from the group consisting of asparagus extract, *Angelica acutiloba* extract, *Morus bombycis* extract, *Cnidium officinale* extract, *Rosa multiflora* extract, *Rubus idaeus* extract, *Sophora flavescens* extract, *Acanthopanax senticosus* extract, coffee extract, rice bran extract, wheat germ extract, *Asarum sieboldii* extract, *Crataegus cuneata* extract, lily extract, *Paeonia lactiflora* extract, tea extract, molasses extract, grape extract, *Humulus lupulus* extract, *Rosa rugosa* extract, *Chaenomeles sinensis* extract, *Scutellaria baicalensis* extract, algae extract, dibutyl hydroxy toluene, butyl hydroxy anisole, mannitol, β -carotene, quercetin, quercitrin, rutin, vitamin E and its derivatives, *Geranium thunbergii* extract, *Saxifraga* extract, *Cassia mimosoides* extract, melissa extract, glycyrrhizic acid and its derivatives, glycyrrhetinic acid and its derivatives, vitamin B and its derivatives, *Gentiana lutea* extract, *Houttuynia cordata* extract, *Paeonia suffruticosa* extract, aloe extract, *Arnica montana* extract, *Hypericum* extract, *Phellodendron amurense* (amur cork tree) extract, *Lonicera japonica* extract, salvia extract, *Betula alba* extract, *Perilla* extract, *Mugwort* extract, *Matricaria chamomilla* extract,

comfrey extract, *Sanguisorba officinalis* extract, watercress extract, *Calendula officinalis* (pot marigold) extract, *Sambucus* extract, *Typha angustifolia* extract, *Sapindus mukurossi* extract, *Eucalyptus* extract, *Astragalus sinicus* extract, vitamin A and its derivatives, tartaric acid, malic acid, glycolic acid, succinic acid, serine, glutamic acid, hydroxyproline, teanin, pyrrolidone carboxylic acid, *Cordyceps sinensis* extract, soybean extract, *Panax ginseng* extract, barley extract, Japanese beech sprout extract, *Ginkgo biloba* extract, *Centella asiatica* extract, yeast extract, *Lactobacillus* extract, *Bifidus* extract, 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone, 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone-5-sulfonic acid, sodium 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone-5-sulfonate, 2-ethylhexyl p-methoxycinnamate, 4-tert-butyl-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, *Althaea officinalis* extract, *Acorus calamus* extract, *Rehmannia glutinosa* extract, *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract, *Malva sylvestris* extract, *Prunus armeniaca* extract, lime extract, raspberry extract, almond extract, tomato extract, phospholipid and its derivatives, *Hydrangea serrata* extract, *Tussilago farfara* extract, quince seed extract, *Glycyrrhiza glabra* extract, *Coix lachryma-jobi* extract, blackcurrant fruit extract, *Inula britannica* extract, cranberry fruit extract, *Mucuna birdwoodiana* extract, *betula alba* sap, *Alnus firma* extract, cactus extract, *Momordica grosvenorii* extract, astaxanthin and its derivatives, and rutin derivatives.

2. The composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said (B) is one, or two or more selected from the group of medicinal ingredients consisting of:

(B1) asparagus extract, *Angelica acutiloba* extract, *Morus bombycis* extract, *Cnidium officinale* extract, *Rosa multiflora* extract, *Rubus idaeus* extract, *Sophora flavescens* extract, *Acanthopanax senticosus* extract, coffee extract, rice bran extract, wheat germ extract, *Asarum sieboldii* extract, *Crataegus cuneata* extract, lily extract, *Paeonia lactiflora* extract, tea extract, molasses extract, grape extract, *Humulus lupulus* extract, *Rosa rugosa* extract, *Chaenomeles sinensis* extract,

Scutellaria baicalensis extract, algae extract, dibutyl hydroxy toluene, butyl hydroxy anisole, mannitol, β -carotene, quercetin, quercitrin, rutin, vitamin E and its derivatives, *Geranium thungergii* extract, *Saxifraga* extract, *Cassia mimosoides* extract, melissa extract, glycyrrhizic acid and its derivatives, glycyrrhetic acid and its derivatives, vitamin B and its derivatives, *Gentiana lutea* extract, *Houttuynia cordata* extract, *Paeonia suffruticosa* extract, aloe extract, *Arnica montana* extract, *Hypericum* extract, *Phellodendron amurense* (amur cork tree) extract, *Lonicera japonica* extract, salvia extract, *Betula alba* extract, *Perilla* extract, *Mugwort* extract, *Matricaria chamomilla* extract, comfrey extract, *Sanguisorba officinalis* extract, watercress extract, *Calendula officinalis* (pot marigold) extract, *Sambucus* extract, *Typha angustifolia* extract, *Sapindus mukurossi* extract, *Eucalyptus* extract, *Astragalus sinicus* extract, vitamin A and its derivatives, tartaric acid, malic acid, glycolic acid, succinic acid, serine, glutamic acid, hydroxyproline, theanine, pyrrolidone carboxylic acid, *Cordyceps sinensis* extract, soybean extract, *Panax ginseng* extract, barley extract, Japanese beech sprout extract, *Ginkgo biloba* extract, *Centella asiatica* extract, yeast extract, *Lactobacillus* extract, *Bifidus* extract, 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone, 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone-5-sulfonic acid, sodium 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone-5-sulfonate, 2-ethylhexyl p-methoxycinnamate, 4-tert-butyl-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, *Althaea officinalis* extract, *Acorus calamus* extract, *Rehmannia glutinosa* extract, *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract, *Malva sylvestris* extract, *Prunus armeniaca* extract, lime extract, raspberry extract, almond extract, tomato extract, phospholipid and its derivatives, *Hydrangea serrata* extract, *Tussilago farfara* (coltsfoot) extract and quince seed extract.

3. The composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said (B) is one, or two or more selected from the group of medicinal ingredients consisting of:

(B2) *Glycyrrhiza glabra* extract, *Coix lachryma-jobi* extract, blackcurrant fruit extract, *Inula britannica* extract, cranberry

fruit extract, *Mucuna birdwoodiana* extract, *betula alba* sap, *Alnus firma* extract, cactus extract, *Momordica grosvenorii* extract, astaxanthin and its derivatives and rutin derivatives.

4. The composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said (B) is one, or two or more selected from the group of medicinal ingredients consisting of lily extract, *Morus bombycis* extract, natural vitamin E, dipotassium glycyrrhiziate, yeast extract, hydrogen-added soybean phospholipid and 2-ethylhexyl *p*-methoxycinnamate.

5. The composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said (B) is one, or two or more selected from the group of medicinal ingredients consisting of butyl hydroxy toluene, *Panax ginseng* extract, green tea extract, *Sanguisorba officinalis* extract, 2-ethylhexyl *p*-methoxycinnamate, retinol palmitate, and *Tussilago farfara* (coltsfoot) extract.

6. The composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5, being provided as an external preparation for skin.

7. The composition as claimed in Claim 6, being provided as an external preparation for skin for whitening.

8. The composition as claimed in Claim 6, being provided as an anti-aging external preparation for skin.

9. The composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein said compound represented by formula (1) is a compound, or a compound prepared from said compound extracted from one, or two or more plants selected from the plant group consisting of *Cistaceae* including *Cistus ladaniferus* L., *Cistus creticus* L., *Cistus monoperiensis* L. and *Cistus salvifolius*

10. The composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 7, being blended with one, or two or more extracts, containing said compound represented by formula (1), selected from the plant group

consisting of *Cistaceae* including *Cistus ladaniferus* L. , *Cistus creticus* L., *Cistus monoperiensis* L. and *Cistus salvifolius*.

11. A method of preventing melanin formation, comprising applying said composition claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 to skin.

12. A method of whitening of skin, comprising applying said composition claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 to skin.

13. A method of anti-aging of skin, comprising applying said composition claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 to skin.

14. A method of using said composition claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 as an external preparation for skin.

15. A method of using said composition claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 for preparing an external preparation for skin.